In addition, the following policy initiatives have been taken for the sector in the Exim Policy effective from 1.4.2002:—

* Customs duty on import of rough diamonds has been reduced to zero and licensing regime for rough diamond abolished.
* Value addition norms for export of plain jewellery have been reduced from 10% to 7% Export of all mechanized unstudded jewellery is now permissible at a value addition of 3% which was earlier restricted only to gold/platinum/silver unstudded Chains and bangles manufactured by fully mechanized process.
* Personal carriage of jewellery is permissible through Hyderabad and Jaipur airports as well, in addition to Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata,Chennai and Bangalore.

Fall in production of tea

1859. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of tea in the country has declined by 38 million kg. in 2002 recording a fall of about 815 million kg. as against 853 million in 2001 and the crop in South India during 2002 was estimated at 192 million kg. and a similar fall was expected in North India also;

(b) if so, the reasons for fall in the production; and

(c) the steps being taken to boost production?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The production of tea in India during 2002 is estimated at 826.16 million kg. as against 853.71 million kg. achieved in 2001, indicating a decline of 27.55 million kg. during 2002 over 2001. The crop in South India during 2002 is estimated at 194.41 million kg as against 202.95 million kg. achieved during 2001. The crop in North India during 2002 is estimated at 631.75 million kg as against 650.76 million kg. achieved during 2001.

(b) The decline in production during 2002 over 2001 was mainly due to agro-climatic conditions.

(c) Several steps have been taken for increasing production of tea in the country. These include financial assistance provided by the Tea Board to the tea industry under its development schemes for encouraging extension planting, replanting, rejuvenation pruning, new planting, infilling, creation of irrigation facilities and drainage etc. Tea Board is also provding financial assistance for research and development (R&D) requirement of the tea gardens and for imparting training to the tea plantation workers and management.

Export to China

1860. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export from India to China has gone up; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Exports to China have increased from $593.16 million in April—November 2001-02 to $1034.99 million in corresponding period of 2002-03. The major items of exports which have registered substantial growth include primary and semi-finished iron and steel, processed minerals, manufacture of metals, non-ferrous metals, chemicals. The growth in exports may be attributed to conducive market forces and an enabling policy environment.

EPZs in Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan

†1861. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Export Processing Zones in Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan;

(b) the details of the type of exports from these export processing zones along with the value of the export during the last two years; and

(c) the quantity of exports by each processing zone along with the percentage of share in total exports done by each State during last two years?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.